| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices* | |
| *Bihar Circle* | | |
| 1. | Paroria | Samastipur Rural |
| 2. | Jhabri | Singhbhum Tribal |
| 3. | Mahua | Gopalganj Rural |
| 4. | Jasso | Madhubani Rural |
| 5. | Songharwa | Gopalganj Rural |
| *Madhya Pradesh Circle* | | |
| 1. | Dungaria | Chhindwara Tribal |
| 2. | Sahajpuri | Jabalpur Rural |
| 3. | Temani | Betul Tribal |
| 4. | Banagram | Burdwan Rural |
| *North East Circle* | | |
| 1. | Darka | West Siang Tribal |
| *Maharashtra Circle* | | |
| 1. | Tiwai Hills | Pune Rural |

*[English]*

**Coordination between Minister and Officers**

2487. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the newsitem capitoned 'Rail mantri va afsaron mein talmail ka abhav' appearing in 'Dainik Jagran', New Delhi edition dated July 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The report appearing in the newsitem is not based on facts. Contrary to what has been stated therein, the inaugural function for North-Central Railway was held on 28th August,' 96. No meeting, as reported was held on 28th June,'97 between the officers of Northern and North-Central Railway (NCR). In order to commence setting up of the new North-Central Railway/Allahabad with least disruption in working, some broad items of work of Allahabad Division, which would form part of the proposed new North-Central Railway, have been taken over by them with effect from 15.7.97. Eighteen Officers and about 96 staff have also been positioned for the smooth functioning of one-division zone. Further, there is no shortage of infrastructural facilities as stated in the report and adequate outlay (Rs. 5.24 cr.) has been provided in 1997-98 for setting up of North-Central Railway. There is close co-ordination between the two Railways. Further, a large number of New Lines, Doubling and Gauge Conversion projects are in progress on the Railways and will require an amount of Rs. 29681 cr. (current costs) for completion. Against this an amount of Rs. 1600 cr. has been provided in 1997-98.

**Senior Citizenship Certificate**

2488. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether booking clerks at railway stations insist on Senior Citizenship Certificate while giving them concession;

(b) if so, whether it is compulsory to produce the said certificate;

(c) if not, the reasons of such insistence; and

(d) the names of the authorities who are authorised to issue such certificates?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Doubling of Trivandrum-Quilon Rail Line**

2489. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of doubling work of Trivandrum-Quilon Sector;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHIR RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Trivandrum-Kochuveli has been completed. Kochuveli-Kazakuttam will be completed later this year. Work has been taken up at various locations on rest of the section.

(b) By Dec. '99, subject to availability of resources.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 98 crs. and expenditure upto 31.3.97 is Rs. 36 crs.

*[Translation]*

**Rank of India Amongst Solar Energy Producers**

2490. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the place India occupies in the world in the production of solar energy and the provision made for its development;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to use solar energy for irrigation purposes in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total solar energy generated in the country at present and the capacity likely to be added thereto in the near future;

(e) the details of items prepared or likely to be prepared with the solar energy; and

(f) the efforts being made to formulate a special scheme for benefit of the villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD : (a) Solar energy can be used through two major technology routes, solar thermal route for heating and cooling applications and solar photovoltaic (PV) route for direct generation of electricity. India is one of the leading nations in the world in the production and utilisation of solar thermal and photovoltaic products. India is the largest user of solar cookers. Surveys conducted by some independent consultants have shown India as the second largest producer of photovoltaic modules based on single crystalline silicon solar cells. During the financial year 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 58.50 crores has been provided in the central budged for this sector.

(b) and (c) Government is implementing a programme for the applicationof solar photovoltaic water pumping systems for agriculture and related uses. Under this scheme, which is implemented through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, manufacturers, suppliers and financial intermediaries can directly market solar pumps throughout the country, including the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The solar pumps are sold with a soft loan and subsidy arrangement. present rate of subsidy is Rs. 125 per watt of solar photovoltaic array capacity subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,50,000. Depending on the capacity of the solar pump, a soft loan in the range of Rs. 50,000-Rs. 1,00,000 is available at 5% annual interest rate, repayable over a period of 10 years. A total of 2,159 solar PV water pumping systems have been installed under this programme.

(d) By the end of 8th Five year Plan about 28 MW of solar photovoltaic systems have been deployed. This is estimated to generate about 42 million kwh per year. About 380,000 sq. m. of solar thermal collector area for use in water heating has also been instlled in the country and is estimated to save about 256 million kwh (thermal) energy per year. In addition, about 4,35,000 solar cookers, capable of saving 1.3 million LPG cylinders per year, have also been deployed.

The Ninth Five Year Plan proposals envisage deployment of 100 MW capacity of solar PV systems, 1.5 million sq. m. solar thermal collector area and 5 lakh solar cookers.

(e) Solar Energy systems currently in use based on the solar photovoltaic route include solar lanterns, street lights, domestic lights, village power plants, water pumping systems and a variety of other applications in telecommunications, railways, off-shore oil platforms, TV transmission, battery charging etc. Solar PV systems which have potential for large scale use include medical refrigerators, solar powered water desalination systems and grid connected solar power plants etc.

Solar Thermal system currently in use include solar water heaters for applications in domestic, industrial and commercial sectors, solar cookers as supplementing cooking device, solar air heaters/dryers and solar stills. Energy efficient buildings based on solar passive architecture have been demonstrated. Efforts are in progress to develop solar systems for industrial process heat and power generation. A 140 MW integrated solar combined cycle power plant with solar thermal power generation capacity of 35 MW is likely to be taken up for installation in Rajasthan.

(f) Government has formulated programmes on decentralised solar energy systems like solar lanterns, domestic lighting systems, village power plants and solar pumps primarily for the benefit of the villagers. Subsidies are provided to users of these systems.

*[English]*

**Running of Shuttle Between Neemach and Ratlam**

2491. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any requests have been made for starting of a shuttle between Neemach and Ratlam under Ratlam Division in Western Railway by the residents of that area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the General Manager (W.R.) has assured for the same; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Some representations including from Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, MP have been received in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Seal on Letters**

2492. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the complaints have been received that date and place of posting as well as receiving place have